

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim [[1]] 9 wherein said support is located above a center of gravity of the shield body enabling the individual to carry the shield with one hand with frontal ballistic protection afforded thereby.
4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim [[1]] 9 wherein said support is located adjacent a central upper margin of the shield body enabling the barrel of the long gun when grasped by the individual's one hand to project over the upper margin of the shield body.
5. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 4 wherein said support projects generally perpendicular to and from the shield body and from the back side of the shield.
6. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 4 wherein said support projects from a back side of the shield body and includes a generally vertically extending handle

extending generally parallel to the shield body to enable the individual to simultaneously support the shield and grasp a vertically extending grip of the long gun.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9 wherein said shield body includes a plurality of sections arranged side-by-side relative to one another, said sections being secured to one another maintaining complete frontal ballistic protection while enabling adjustment of the sections relative to one another to adjust the lateral extent of the shield.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to Claim 8 wherein~~ Ballistic protection apparatus comprising:

a ballistic shield having a body formed at least in part of ballistic material capable of stopping a bullet;

said shield body configured to provide frontal ballistic protection at least to the torso of an individual when the shield is located in front of the individual;

said shield body having a support on one side thereof for mounting a long gun and configured to enable an individual to simultaneously grasp the long gun and the support by one hand with a barrel of the long gun projecting from the shield body to an opposite side of the shield from the individual;

said support being located on said shield body to enable the individual to carry the shield in and grasp the long gun by the one hand and simultaneously effectively operate the long gun using both hands;

said shield body including a central section and a pair of side sections on respective opposite sides of said central section maintaining a ballistic front, and fasteners for releasably securing said sections and said central section to one another; and

each said side section ~~has~~ having a laterally extending compound curve along said shield body, said side section including a convex front surface adjacent said central section and a concave front surface adjacent a distal side edge thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to Claim 8 wherein~~ Ballistic protection apparatus comprising:

a ballistic shield having a body formed at least in part of ballistic material capable of stopping a bullet;

said shield body configured to provide frontal ballistic protection at least to the torso of an individual when the shield is located in front of the individual;

said shield body having a support on one side thereof for mounting a long gun and configured to enable an individual to simultaneously grasp the long gun and the support by one hand with a barrel of the long gun projecting from the shield body to an opposite side of the shield from the individual;

said support being located on said shield body to enable the individual to carry the shield in and grasp the long gun by the one hand and simultaneously effectively operate the long gun using both hands;

said shield body including a central section and a pair of side sections on respective opposite sides of said central section maintaining a ballistic front, and fasteners for releasably securing said sections and said central section to one another; and

said central section ~~has~~ having opposite side margins overlapping adjacent inner side margins of said side sections.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim ~~[[8]]~~ 10 wherein said fasteners are formed of an elastic material and are spaced one from the other between upper and lower margins of the shield body and along at least one of front and back sides of the shield body.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to Claim 11~~ Ballistic protection apparatus comprising:

a ballistic shield having a body formed at least in part of ballistic material capable of stopping a bullet;

said shield body configured to provide frontal ballistic protection at least to the torso of an individual when the shield is located in front of the individual;

said shield body having a support on one side thereof for mounting a long gun and configured to enable an individual to simultaneously grasp the long gun and the

support by one hand with a barrel of the long gun projecting from the shield body to an opposite side of the shield from the individual;

said support being located on said shield body to enable the individual to carry the shield in and grasp the long gun by the one hand and simultaneously effectively operate the long gun using both hands;

said shield body including a central section and a pair of side sections on respective opposite sides of said central section maintaining a ballistic front, and fasteners for releasably securing said sections and said central section to one another;

said fasteners being formed of an elastic material and spaced one from the other between upper and lower margins of the shield body and along at least one of front and back sides of the shield body; and

said fasteners ~~extend~~ extending along both the front and back sides of the shield body and ~~are being~~ releasably secured in adjusted positions relative to said side sections enabling adjustment of the width of the shield body.

13. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 12 wherein said fasteners and said side sections are secured to one another by hooks and loops.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to Claim 8 wherein~~ Ballistic protection apparatus comprising:

a ballistic shield having a body formed at least in part of ballistic material capable of stopping a bullet;

said shield body configured to provide frontal ballistic protection at least to the torso of an individual when the shield is located in front of the individual;

said shield body having a support on one side thereof for mounting a long gun and configured to enable an individual to simultaneously grasp the long gun and the support by one hand with a barrel of the long gun projecting from the shield body to an opposite side of the shield from the individual;

said support being located on said shield body to enable the individual to carry the shield in and grasp the long gun by the one hand and simultaneously effectively operate the long gun using both hands;

said shield body including a central section and a pair of side sections on respective opposite sides of said central section maintaining a ballistic front, and fasteners for releasably securing said sections and said central section to one another;  
and

said fasteners ~~are~~ being spaced from one another between upper and lower margins of the shield body, said fasteners securing said side sections relative to one another enabling adjustment of the width of the shield body.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to Claim 8 wherein~~ Ballistic protection apparatus comprising:

a ballistic shield having a body formed at least in part of ballistic material capable of stopping a bullet;

said shield body configured to provide frontal ballistic protection at least to the torso of an individual when the shield is located in front of the individual;

said shield body having a support on one side thereof for mounting a long gun and configured to enable an individual to simultaneously grasp the long gun and the support by one hand with a barrel of the long gun projecting from the shield body to an opposite side of the shield from the individual;

said support being located on said shield body to enable the individual to carry the shield in and grasp the long gun by the one hand and simultaneously effectively operate the long gun using both hands;

said shield body including a central section and a pair of side sections on respective opposite sides of said central section maintaining a ballistic front, and fasteners for releasably securing said sections and said central section to one another;  
and

outer margins of said side sections ~~have~~ having generally scalloped shield edges to enhance ballistic protection to the shoulder and hip region of the individual's torso.

16. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 15 in combination with a long gun.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Cancelled).

25. (New) Ballistic protection apparatus comprising:

a ballistic shield having a body formed at least in part of ballistic material capable of protecting against a ballistic projectile;

said shield body configured to provide frontal ballistic protection at least to the torso of an individual when the shield is located in front of the individual;

said shield body including a central section and a pair of side sections on respective opposite sides of said central section maintaining a ballistic front, and fasteners for releasably securing said sections and said central section to one another;

said central section having opposite side margins overlapping adjacent inner side margins of said side sections;

said fasteners being formed of a flexible material and being spaced one from the other between upper and lower margins of the shield body and along at least one of front and back sides of the shield body;



each said side section having a laterally extending compound curve along aid shield body, each said side section including a convex front surface adjacent said central section and a concave front surface adjacent a distal side edge thereof.

26. (New) Apparatus according to claim 25 wherein outer margins of said side sections have generally scalloped edges.

27. (New) Apparatus according to claim 25 wherein said central section has opposite side margins overlapping adjacent inner side margins of said side sections.

28. (New) Apparatus according to claim 25 wherein said fasteners extend along both the front and back sides of the shield body and are releasably secured in adjusted positions relative to said side sections enabling adjustment of the width of the shield body.

29. (New) Apparatus according to claim 25 wherein said fasteners are spaced from one another between upper and lower margins of the shield body, said fasteners securing said side sections relative to one another enabling adjustment of the width of the shield body.